

Interesting scout among  
WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHES  
Report of  
Major John Green  
August 20, 1869

Graff

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## Interesting Scout among White Mountain Apaches,

Some of whom sue for Peace and a Reservation.

—:00:—

### Headquarters Camp Grant, A. T.,

AUGUST 20th, 1869.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL,

*Department of California,*

SIR:

I have the honor to report that, in compliance with Special Orders, No. 73, dated Headquarters Sub-District of Tucson, July 5th, 1869, I left this camp on the evening of July 13th, 1869, on a scouting expedition with a command composed as follows: Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel *John Green*, Major, 1st Cavalry, commanding, Lieutenant *James Calhoun*, 32d Infantry, and twenty-five men of Company "I," 32d Infantry, thirty enlisted men of Troop "K," 1st Cavalry; Acting Assistant Surgeon *L. L. Dorr*, U. S. A., guides, scouts, etc.

For general direction and camps I would respectfully refer to the map herewith enclosed.

I scouted carefully between this and Camp Goodwin, with a hope of finding Indians, for seven days, but found nothing to guarantee further delay. I arrived at Camp Goodwin July 19th.

July 20th: Remained at Camp Goodwin to prepare the command which was to accompany me from that post.

July 21st: Left Camp Goodwin with the following additional command: Captain *John Barry*, 1st Cavalry, Lieutenant *F. K. Upham*, 1st Cavalry, Lieutenant *James Bassel*, 2d Artillery, and forty-five enlisted men of Troop "L," 1st Cavalry, Captain *J. H. Gallagher* and Lieutenant *E. B. Rheem*, 32d Infantry, and forty enlisted men of Companies "B" and "F," 32d Infantry. I gave orders the evening previous that the packing of the mules should commence at 7 A.M., and move out as soon as packed, escorted by the Infantry detachments of the respective commands, (as I had not yet organized the command, intending to do so in the first camp where it would be together.) I left my camp near Camp Goodwin with the Camp Grant detachment of cavalry at 9 A.M. The Camp Goodwin cavalry, under command of Captain *Barry*, soon followed; marched 12 miles, and went into camp on the Gila River at 1 P.M., the Camp Grant pack-train arriving an hour afterwards. The Camp Goodwin pack-train was left in charge of Captain *Gallagher*, who had one officer and forty men to guard it, but, from some unaccountable mismanagement on his part, did not get into camp till the next day, when five mules were missing, which have not yet been found. I sent him back to his post in arrest, and ordered Captain *Barry* to find out particulars and prefer charges against him on his return. Owing to the loss of these mules with their packs, I had also to send back 15 men of the infantry.

July 22d: Whilst waiting for the Camp Goodwin pack-train, I sent my chief scout, *Manuel*, with *Jose Maria* (a guide) and six scouts, to see if they could find any fresh Indian signs. After crossing the river and going down 3½ miles, they suddenly met eighteen wild Apaches going south, evidently on a marauding expedition, as they were well provisioned. A fight at once ensued, in which two wild Indians were

killed on the spot. Another dead body was found next morning in the vicinity, and I learned afterwards from captives that a fourth died the same day, both from their wounds, and that three others were mortally wounded, if not already dead. As soon as the firing was heard in camp, I sent Lieutenant *Calhoun* with ten men of Troop "K" in its direction, but as he had to go round some distance, the fight was over and scouts returning before he reached the scene of action.

July 23d: I placed Lieutenant *Bassel* in command of the infantry detachments, and Lieutenant *Calhoun* of the detachment of Troop "K," 1st Cavalry, and left camp at 9 A.M. Nothing occurred of note till July 25th. On this day I took twenty mounted men and the scouts and moved in advance of the command to look for Indian signs. After marching 15 miles fresh ones were seen in an oak grove, where some Indians had been gathering acorns. Believing that a rancheria was close by, we moved cautiously up a small stream, and soon captured an old squaw. We endeavored to ascertain from her where the rancheria was, but she was very reluctant to give information, and inclined to mislead us. Soon after a younger squaw was captured, who told us it was on a hill to our left. We at once charged up this hill, and found it as she had said, but other squaws having discovered us meantime from near the rancheria, had given the alarm, and the occupants had fled up the rugged mountains, where it was impossible to follow. All their provisions and camp equipage were captured and destroyed; one child and two donkeys were also captured. I then moved down the creek; met the command, and went into camp. The prisoners informed me that there was a white woman captive somewhere among the Apaches, and they believed an exchange might be effected. The next day I sent the old squaw (who was of no value to the Indians, and only an encumbrance,) to endeavor to find the white woman, and to say I would exchange the young squaw and boy for her, but I did not hear of her afterwards.

On July 27th, whilst on the march, the captive squaw informed me that there was a corn-field about three miles from the trail, on one of the small tributaries of the San Carlos. I sent Corporal *Miles* and twelve men of the 32d Infantry with the scouts to destroy it. On his return he reported he had found and destroyed about four acres of corn.

July 28th: The trail ran through a very deep canon, with high rocky bluffs on each side. I sent the infantry in advance on this day, so that in case of attack they would not be encumbered with horses in this narrow place. Captain *Barry*, with the detachment of his troop, was left to escort the pack-train. After passing through the canon, and whilst making a halt, two mounted Indians were discovered some distance off. I ordered some of the scouts and Lieutenant *Calhoun* with ten men of Troop "K," 1st Cavalry, to pursue, thinking there might be more near by. The Indians were so closely pushed that they killed one of their horses, but escaped in the mountains. I then moved on, and at 3:30 P.M. arrived at the Rio Prieto, and went into camp. On arriving at this stream we found some eight or ten Indians on the opposite side looking for us. I learned afterwards they had been notified that we were coming in that direction by other Indians.

July 29th: Owing to the roughness of the trail of yesterday, and many of the horses and mules having lost their shoes, I had to remain in camp in order to have the animals re-shod. I had learned that there was a large amount of corn planted on the White Mountain River, for which point I started on the morning of July 30th; marched about eighteen miles, and went into camp on that stream. I sent

Lieutenant *Upham*, with twenty mounted men and some scouts, to look for the cornfields. They returned in the evening, and reported that they had found some very large ones, and that the farther up they went the larger they seemed to get; but they had not time that evening to explore farther. About sunset a party was discovered approaching the camp, which proved to be two white men, (a Mr. *Cooley* and Mr. *Dodd*,) an Apache chief, (*Pin-lah-kiss*, or *Miguel*,) another Indian, and a Mexican, who lives with them and acts as their interpreter. The white men stated they were prospecting for gold, and had come with *Miguel* from Fort Wingate, New Mexico, from the commanding officer of which post (Colonel *Evans*) *Miguel* had a letter of recommendation. He had also letters from General *Carlton*, former commander of the District of New Mexico, and General *Getty*, present commander. I placed the party under guard that night, and, on the following morning, had a talk with them. *Miguel* stated his village was thirty miles distant, on the Rio Cariga; that he had never been at war with the whites, and always wanted to be at peace; and that he now saw, since the troops had found their way into that country, it was necessary he should get on a reservation where he could be protected. He also stated he had been several times to the posts in New Mexico, and had always been well treated. I then informed him he did not belong to New Mexico, but to Arizona, and that if he wanted to make any arrangements with the military authorities he must go to Camp McDowell and see the District Commander. I then told him I had nothing more to say, but would send some officers and men with him to his village to see if the white men were trading arms and ammunition with them, as I had previously understood; but that if everything was found right, the officer in command would have a farther talk with him. I then detailed Captain *Barry*, Lieutenants *Upham* and *Cathoun*, and fifty mounted men, chief scout *Manuel* with eight of his men, *Gallegos*, a guide, and Mr. *George Collier*, interpreter, for this purpose. They left my camp at 8 a.m., (this July 31st.) Believing that many of these Indians, if not all, had been guilty of marauding, I instructed Captain *Barry*, if possible, to exterminate the whole village, but gave no positive order; he was to be governed by circumstances. Soon after Captain *Barry* left I broke up camp, and moved up White Mountain River about five miles, to where I supposed was the central point of the cornfields, and went into camp; then detailed all the men, except a small guard for camp, and commenced to destroy the corn. At least one hundred acres of fine corn, just in silk, were destroyed, and it took the command nearly three days to do it. I was astonished, and could hardly believe that the Apache Indians could and would cultivate the soil to such an extent; and when we consider their very rude implements, and the great labor it requires to dig the *acequias* for irrigation, one cannot help but wonder at their success. Their fields compare very favorably with those of their more civilized brethren.

On the night of August 1st Captain *Barry* returned with his command, and reported that, when he approached *Miguel's* village, there was a white flag flying from every hut and every prominent point; that the men, women and children came out to meet them, and went to work at once to cut corn for their horses, and showed such a spirit of delight at meeting them that the officers united in saying, if they had fired on them, they would have been guilty of cold blooded murder. Even my chief scout, *Manuel*, who has no scruples in such matters, and whose mind was filled with taking scalps when he left camp, said he could not have fired on them after what he saw. Captain *Barry* also found that the white men had nothing but some provisions and implements—being what they represented themselves: prospecting

miners. *Miguel* reiterated that he wanted to go on a reservation where he could be protected, and Captain *Barry* repeated what I had previously told him—that he must go to Camp McDowell and see the District Commander. He also gave him a letter for that purpose. *Miguel* promised to start on the following day, and commenced to make preparations at once. The white men also were to accompany him. The Apaches have but few friends, and, I believe, no agent. Even the officers, when applied to by them for information, cannot tell them what to do. There seems no settled policy, but a general idea to kill them wherever found. I also am a believer in that, if we go for extermination; but I think—and I am sustained in my opinion by most of the officers accompanying my expedition—that if *Miguel* and his band were placed on a reservation properly managed, and had a military post to protect them, they would form a nucleus for the civilization of the Apaches, as they seem more susceptible of it than any tribe I have ever seen. I even believe the Apache, if properly managed, could be used against the Apache, and so end the war in a short time. *Miguel* said he had soldiers, and would place them at my disposal whenever I wanted them. The reservation, with a military post, should be in the White Mountain country, where they could raise their crops and sustain themselves with but little cost to the Government—the climate and soil being excellent for such a purpose. The only difficulty would be to make a wagon road into that country, but by proper exploration it might be accomplished. If this scheme should fail, a post in that country would be of invaluable service in suppressing the Indian war in Arizona.

August 2d: The destruction of corn was completed. On the morning of the 2d we left the beautiful valley of the White Mountain River, and moved in a southeast direction through a beautiful rolling grassy country, interspersed with pine forests. Nothing occurred till August 6th, when, after descending the Notanes Mountain into the grassy plain, the scouts captured a squaw, who was gathering acorns. She informed them there was a rancharia to the left, and one to the right. Lieutenant *Calhoun* with his detachment, Mr. *Hutton*, post guide, and some scouts, were ordered to the right. After going some distance they found one, which had been abandoned several days. I took Captain *Barry*, with his detachment and the balance of the scouts, and went to the left. After galloping at full speed for about a mile and a half, several more squaws and children were captured, and the rancharia was discovered to be on a high point, back of which was a high, rugged peak, up which the Indians had made their escape, abandoning all their property, which was a very large amount of provisions. skins, baskets, ollas, hatchets, knives, powder and lead, ropes, moccasins, saddles, etc., all of which were destroyed or brought away. One Indian was killed; seven ponies, one mule and one colt captured. During the destruction of the property the Indians shot arrows from their heights, but did no damage. I then crossed the grassy plain, and went into camp.

August 7th: I left camp at 9 A.M., and arrived at Camp Goodwin at 3 P.M.

Having reason to believe that there were Indians in the Arivapa Mountains, I determined to scout them thoroughly, and for the purpose of doing so I took the following command from Camp Goodwin: Captain *Barry*, Lieutenant *Upham*, and thirty enlisted men of Troop "L," 1st Cavalry; Lieutenant *Sheldon Guthrie* and twenty-five enlisted men of Companies "B" and "F," 32d Infantry—intending to divide the command at or near Eureka Springs.

I left Camp Goodwin on the night of August 9th with the cavalry,

and moved fifteen miles to Black Rock that night. I left orders for the pack-train, which was escorted by the infantry, to move on to the Tucson road the following morning, and join me at the Cottonwood or Eureka Springs. As soon as it was light enough on August 10th, I left Black Rock, and moved in a southeast direction, arriving at Cottonwood at 11:30 A.M., where I camped and awaited the pack-train, which arrived at 1:30 P.M. Mr. *Hutton* discovered some Indian tracks apparently several days old, and I sent *Manuel* and several of his scouts to ascertain what direction they had taken. He returned in the evening, and reported that he had found the trail of four or five Indians and one mule, going up the Cottonwood. He also found their camping place of a night or two previous.

On August 11th, left camp at 7.30 A. M., and moved up Cottonwood to follow their trail. After marching 6 or 8 miles to the Southeast, I took *Manuel* and some of his scouts, Lieutenant *Calthoun* and his detachment of Cavalry, and continued to follow the trail, leaving orders for Captain *Barry* and the balance of the command to march to the Arivapa and go into camp at the first water. When I had gone about two miles, (keeping the scouts in front as trailers, and who followed the trail like bloodhounds,) they discovered a party of Indians about three-fourths of a mile distant. A charge was at once ordered, and notwithstanding the roughness of the country (being near some deep canons and ravines) three out of the five Indians were killed, and two children, one mule and all their provisions captured. Captain *Barry* hearing the firing followed my trail and joined me after the charge. I then moved to the Arivapa and went into camp.

August 12th: I moved camp about ten miles to Eureka Springs. At this point I had intended to divide the command, one half to move on the north side, the other on the south side of the Arivapa mountains, but I was informed by the guides it would be impossible to get animals through on the north side. On the morning of the 13th, I detailed Lieutenant *Upham*, (Lieutenant *Guthrie* being sick,) 38 men of the Infantry command, Mr. *Hutton* and *Gallegos*, guides, and three scouts, with orders to carry four days rations, and scout through the northern side of the Arivapa mountains, and join me on the San Pedro. I marched with the Cavalry, balance of the Infantry, and pack-train, in a direction a little west of south over a grassy plain for fifteen miles, and camped at the foot of the mountains.

August 14th: Marched through a pass in the mountains, in a southwest direction. On this day the march was very difficult owing to the roughness of the country and the heavy rains, which raised the streams and made the traveling very muddy.

August 15th: Had to remain in camp till 2 P. M., not being able to cross the stream on account of high water. I then moved six miles, crossing several different streams. That night the three Indian scouts accompanying Lieutenant *Upham* arrived in camp, and reported that the command could not pass through on the northern side of the mountain, but had turned back, crossed the mountain and struck my trail. They also reported that many of the men were sick, but that the command would join me on the following day.

August 16th: I sent Captain *Barry* back with twenty led horses to meet and bring up Lieutenant *Upham's* command; they reached my camp at 2 P. M. At 3 P. M. I moved camp about seven miles to the San Pedro river.

August 17th: I moved down the San Pedro towards Camp Grant, where I arrived on the afternoon of August 19th.

The result of the expedition is—eight Indians killed, (all warriors,

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except one growing boy), three mortally wounded, thirteen women and children captured, seven ponies, one colt, two mules, and two donkeys captured. Two rancherias, with the property of the Indians, such as provisions and camp equipage, captured and destroyed, and at least one hundred acres of fine corn just in silk destroyed, (on White Mountain river).

In conclusion, I must speak in the highest terms of Captain *John Barry*, 1st Cavalry, and Lieutenant *James Calhoun*, 32d Infantry, Commanders of the Cavalry detachments, for the eagerness and zeal they evinced on all occasions towards the success of the expedition.

Owing to the sickly season, the services of Acting Assistant Surgeon *L. L. Dorr* were invaluable. *Manuel* and his scouts are entitled to great credit for the gallant fight they made on the Gila. In regard to the enlisted men, where all (with a very few exceptions) are so eager to distinguish themselves, it is hard to make a selection for mention, but Corporal *John W. Ward*, Troop "K," 1st Cavalry, has on several occasions come under my own observation for perseverance and gallantry, killing one Indian himself in the last encounter.

Lieutenant *Calhoun* also mentions Private *William Williams*, Troop "K," 1st Cavalry, for particular gallantry.

I would also respectfully state that I was informed by some of the Indian captives that, in my attack on the rancheria in Mount Turnbull of April last, thirty Indians were killed and a great many had died afterwards from their wounds.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed:)

JOHN GREEN,

Major 1st Cav'y, Bvt. Lieut-Col. U. S. A.,  
Commanding Post.

The Department Commander regards this expedition as of great importance, and commends the zeal, bravery, and perseverance of the officers and men who composed it. He has forwarded a copy of it to the Adjutant General for the information of the Commission of Indian Affairs, asking that steps be taken to protect and provide for the friendly Apaches in their own country, and he renews a previous recommendation that an additional brevet be conferred on Colonel *Green*, and that Captain *Barry* and Lieutenant *Calhoun* be brevetted one grade; that Corporal *John W. Ward*, Troop "K," 1st Cavalry, and Private *William Williams*, Troop "K," 1st Cavalry, have some mark of commendation conferred upon them for special gallantry in the field.

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JOHN P. SHERBURNE,  
Assistant Adjutant General.

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